

FOR: TOBACCO INDUSTRY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, May 6, 1960

NTA STAND ON SMOKING

REPEATS OPINIONS

The following statement was issued today by Timothy V. Hartnett, chairman of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, in connection with news stories about a statement by the National Tuberculosis Association:

"The National Tuberculosis Association's statement on cigarettes gives no evidence but repeats the widely-questioned opinions of others who rely on statistics rather than on experimental evidence. It ignores the fact that even the statistical claims are disputed by recognized medical authorities.

"Surely, some members of the NTA must remember that not too long ago there were charges that cigarette smoking caused tuberculosis, but these opinions were abandoned when science discovered the real cause of tuberculosis, thus leading to prevention and a cure.

"Discoveries of this kind have brought about the tremendous decline in this country of deaths from major lung ailments from about 430 per 100,000 population in 1900 to around 62 per 100,000 in 1958.

"An analytical and original approach to the lung cancer problem by the National Tuberculosis Association could contribute significantly toward a solution of this disease."

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